

Remarks

At the time of the Office Action claims 1-18 were pending. Claims 1-7, 11-13, 16 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0075750 to Bateman. Claims 8-10, 14-15 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Batemann in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,429,896 to Aruga et al. Claim 14 is also objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 8.

In the instant amendment claim 14 is amended and claims 1-13 and 15-18 remain unchanged. Claim 14 is amended to correct its claim dependency so that it now depends from claim 11. To this end, the objection to claim 14 under 37 CFR 1.75 is obviated and the Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

The rejections to claims 1-18 are traversed, and reconsideration is respectfully requested. Applicants traverse the rejections in view of a Declaration under 37 CFR 1.131 that is submitted herewith.

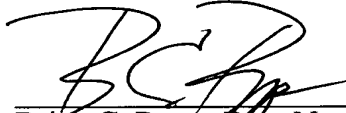
In the Declaration, the inventors declare that they conceived and reduced to practice the present invention prior to October 16, 2002, the effective filing date of Bateman. Exhibit A of the Declaration, which is a copy of an In-service Invention Report signed by representative inventor Yong-Gi Kim on August 10, 2002, along with Exhibit B, which is an English-language translation of Exhibit A, provide evidence that the present invention was conceived and reduced to practice prior to the filing date of Bateman.

Applicant believes that the Declaration completely overcomes the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) because the declaration proves the invention of the claimed subject matter was conceived of and reduced to practice prior to October 16, 2002, the effective date of Bateman under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). To this end, the Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn so that the Application can pass to issue.

In re Appln. of Kim et al.
Application No. 10/699,482
Response to Office Action of January 25, 2007

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: May 21, 2007

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF JANUARY 25, 2007 (along with any documents referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Date: May 21, 2007

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "I. Mikitiouk", written over a horizontal line.

Irina L. Mikitiouk

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